## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building, constructed in the geographical center of old Warrenton, are fronted by the Boonslick Road. The Courthouse is a two-story, red-brick structure exhibiting classic revival characteristics, including symmetrical plan, cast-iron columns, rounded-arch windows, and recessed arch doors at the front entrance. The building is constructed on the old ashlar foundation of the original courthouse and is topped by a hip-roof shingled in slate. The ground floor houses the county court, offices of the probate judge, magistrate judge, county clerk, collector, assessor, treasurer, and county engineer, while the second story contains a circuit court room, jury room, and office of the prosecuting attorney.

The front and side elevations of the Warren County Courthouse appear to be symmetrical and equidimensional. A portico supported by four corinthian columns frames the entranceway on the first floor, and a small, wooden tin-sheathed cupola projects from the center of the roof. Both side elevations are similar in design, and no appendages appear to have been added or removed. Double-sash windows are used throughout the building, 6-over-4 lights on second story, 4-over-4 on the first floor. Rounded-arches embellish the upper-floor windows while less ornamental segmental-arches with keystones appear on the ground-level. The eaves project slightly. The front entrance consists of three independent doorways topped by rounded-arches. The entire structure measures approximately 45 by 55 feet and is situated on the northeast portion of the square.

The Warren County Circuit Court building, a companion building to the courthouse, exhibits similar roof style and is constructed of identical building materials. The smaller strucure, flanking the courthouse to the west, is of brick and the walls, including interior walls, are 18 inches thick. The eight windows have no locks, but are secured by iron shutters at night. The Circuit Court building contains two small rooms opening from either side of an entrance hallway. One room is an office and reception area while the other houses Circuit Court records. The only woodwork used in this building is window sills and moldings. The Circuit Court office was intended to be completely fireproof.

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The Warren County Courthouse is historically significant since the location of the courthouse at Warrenton was catalytic to the town's development. Warrenton was platted specifically to attract the seat of justice, and town lots were not sold until construction of the courthouse began. Furthermore, the establishment of a county seat at Warrenton in opposition to the Missouri River town of New Boston (near the present site of Hopewell, Missouri) demonstrated an economic transition within Warren County from dependence upon commerce with the upper Missouri Valley and the increasing establishment of a landed agricultural population in the interior. Warren County's first settlement was a French trading post established during 1804. But the original homesteaders were Americans who had clustered at Flanders Calaway's post near Marthasville by 1806. ('Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Historical Edition," Warrenton Banner, December 8, 1914). Settlement throughout the area diffused northward from this post until population had become quite evenly distributed. The extension of the Boonslick Road through Montgomery County during the 1810's especially stimulated development of the interior, and, as a consequence, at the time the county was organized, a majority of the residents demanded a courthouse near the population center in an interior township. (Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri, 1877, p. 7). The extension of the road and the settlement of inland areas necessitated a central market and seat of justice and likewise heralded the demise of early settlements on the alluvial plain.

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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6.

#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1971

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 Code: 29

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7.

#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

According to restoration drawings supplied to the Warren County Court by Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, State Preservation Coordinator, American Institute of Architects, the courthouse contains a front lobby, court room, and several administrative offices on the first floor. The lobby and court room occupy a central position on this floor. Two large rooms at the east and west sides of the first floor were subdivided in later years to provide additional offices. The "U" stairway connecting the two floors appears to be original.

The second floor houses the circuit court chamber, with the main courtroom occupying most of the south portion of the floor. Entrance to the Court is obtained through a hallway which connects that room to the stairway. Flanking the corridor are jury rooms and other legal offices. Woodwork throughout appears to be walnut or a similar hardwood, and floors are wooden but covered with linoleum tile.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CLRCUIT COURT BUILDING

In January, 1833, the Missouri Legislature removed the eastern portion of Montgomery County "to be a separate and distinct county, to be known and called by the name of Warren County, in honor of Joseph Warren, who fell at the Battle of Bunker's Hill ... (Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri to 1835, 1835, p. 140.) Three Legislators, from St. Charles, Montgomery, and Franklin Counties, were appointed commissioners to secure the county seat. In establishing the seat of justice for Warren County, the commissioners decided between a centrally-located tract (later to become Warrenton), and the community of New Boston, on Charette Creek, a tributary to the Missouri River. Although neither town was settled until 1838, both Warrenton and New Boston were platted in 1835 in anticipation of receiving the new courthouse. (Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri, 1877, p. 7.) But a county referendum in January, 1836, determined the central tract to be the county seat and the first "Courthouse" was established in a nearby home, pending completion of the original permanent structure in 1839.

The existing Courthouse, an example of classic revival architecture, is the second permanent structure to house Warren County's seat of justice. The 1839 building was razed in 1869 to allow construction of a larger edifice upon the foundation of the old. Construction of the later building began in 1869 and continued through 1871. The current court building was designed by the St. Louis architect, William Brady, and was constructed by Julius Conrad and Company for a total cost of \$40,000. (Missouri State Times, Jefferson City, Missouri, July 2, 1869). Brady's design was accepted by the County Court in July, 1869, but was amended to provide a foundation five feet above ground, a jail in the basement, and a slab roof. County Court records suggest the new building was completed in May, 1871, since the final payment to Conrad was dated as such.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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8.

#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The design of the Warren County Courthouse suggests that Architect Brady's scheme was not only influenced by the construction of the companion Circuit Court Building, but also by a model for a courthouse provided sixty years previously by Asher Benjamin. (Benjamin, Asher, A New System of Architecture, 1806, plate 42.) Benjamin (1773-1845) designed numerous buildings but his publications were also quite influential in establishing a standard of design "that had a strong influence down to the Civil War." Hamlin, Talbot, Greek Revival Architecture in America, 1964, p. 95.) Asher Benjamin's "Plan and Elevation for a Courthouse", contained in A New System of Architecture, illustrates a scheme which resembles the Warren County Courthouse not only in the arrangement and use of columns, but also in the roof design, placement of windows, and the cupola design.

The possible influence of Benjamin is further illustrated by comparing the Warren County Courthouse and the very similar courthouse in Marshall County, Indiana. (Hermansen, David R., Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century, Ball State University Lecture Series, 1968, pp. 13, 20.) The Marshall County Courthouse, constructed in 1870, was designed by Gurdon P. Randall (? - 1884), a student of Benjamin. Since Brady and Randall were contemporaries, the architects could have been in communication or they could have derived their design ideas from the same contemporary source.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

The Circuit Court building at Warrenton was erected in 1866, following the sacking of the Montgomery County seat at Danville during the Civil War. The raid at Danville in 1864 was part of a scheme by Missouri secessionists to destroy civil government in the Unionist counties of east-central Missouri. The destruction of the Danville courthouse prompted Warren County to build the fireproof Circuit Court building to house irreplaceable deed records and other vital statistics in the event Warrenton came under siege. (Dr. Herbert Huckriede, "Early History of Warren County," Official Program and Souvenir of the Warren County Centennial. Warrenton, Missouri: Banner Fublishing Co., 1937.) The Circuit Court building therefore pre-dates the courthouse by three years, and obviously the design of the smaller building was duplicated for the seat of justice.

Neither the courthouse at Warrenton nor the Circuit Court building are in immediate danger of demolition, although the County has transfered some court meetings to other quarters and has contemplated destroyed the old courthouse. In 1965, the County Court commissioned Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, FAIA, to study the feasibility of rehabilitating both structures. Prior to Mr. Kramer's study, the Court had declared the court building unsafe to use as a seat of justice. Since 1965, the Warren County Court has ordered four bond issue elections to restore the courthouse as a community center, but all four attempts have failed. It is quite possible that a future referendum or action by the city council could dismiss the idea of a community center and order the destruction of the handsome old Courthouse, Conversely, inclusion in the National Register may stimulate preservation of the building.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#### WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

Kramer, Gerhardt, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, American Insitute of Architects, letter to the Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office, March 18, 1971. On file at Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65101.

Missouri State Times (Jefferson City, Missouri) July 2, 1869.

Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri to 1835. St. Louis: The Argus Office, 1835, p. 140.

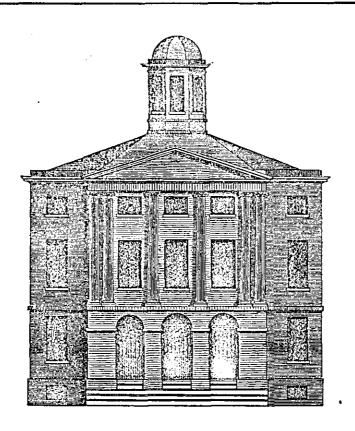
"Seventy-fifth Anniversary Historical Edition," Warrenton Banner, (Warrenton, Missouri), December 8, 1914.

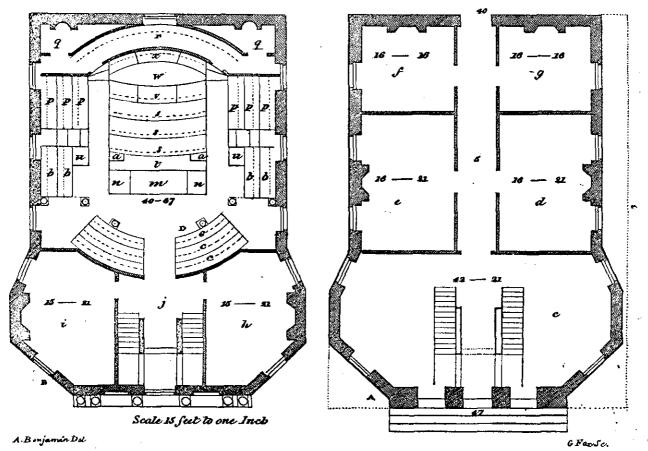
Storment, Mrs. J. C., of Marthasville, Missouri, letter to Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell, State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Historic Site File, Ref: Warren County.

"Warren County Centennial Edition," Marthasville Record, (Marthasville, Missouri), April 3, 1936.

Warren County, Minutes of the County Court, record books for the years 1869 and 1871.

Plate 42.





#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S Z 1. NAME 0 COMMON: Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street CITY OR TOWN:  $\alpha$ Warrenton STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE 29 219 Missouri 63383 Warren PHOTO REFERENCE Z PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A., Kramer and Harms, Architects DATE OF PHOTO: 1965 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey and Planш ning Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Measured drawing, west elevation, Warren County Courthouse, west facing east.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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	PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A., Kramer and Harms. Architects	
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	NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, Historical Survey and Planning	•
	Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 6510	יו
4.	IDENTIFICATION	
-	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	

	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Missouri COUNTY			
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Warren			
	PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY			
n	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE		
Z	1. NAME				
$\supset$	COMMON: Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building				
_	AND/OR HISTORIC:				
	2. LOCATION				
J	STREET AND NUMBER:				
_ _	Main Street				
	CITY OR TOWN:				
×	Warrenton		<u> </u>		
_	STATE: CODE COUNTY:		CODE		
n	Missouri 63383 29 Warre	n	219		
z	3. PHOTO REFERENCE				
_	PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A. Kramer and Harms. Architects				
	DATE OF PHOTO: 1965	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
ш	Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101				
~ ~	4. IDENTIFICATION	-			
-•	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.				
	Basement plan of Warren County Courthouse				

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

Missouri	
COUNTY	
Warren	
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S Z 1. NAME COMMON: Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building 0 AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: C Main Street  $\supset$ CITY OR TOWN:  $\alpha$ Warrenton STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE Missouri 63383 29 Warren 219 PHOTO REFERENCE Z PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A, Kramer and Harms, Architects DATE OF PHOTO: 1965 NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey and Plan-ning Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101 ш ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Second floor plan of Warren County Courthouse

STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE <u>Missouri</u> COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Warren PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S z I. NAME 0 COMMON: Warren County Courthouse and Circuit Court Building AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: ( ) Main Street CITY OR TOWN: 2 Warrenton STATE: COUNTY: CODE Missouri 63383 29 219 Warren PHOTO REFERENCE 7 PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A., Kramer and Harms, Architects DATE OF PHOTO: 1965 ш NEGATIVE FILEO AT: Missouri State Park Board, State Historical Survey and Planning Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101 ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Measured drawing, east elevation, Warren County Courthouse, east facing west.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

STATE	Missouri
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FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
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	PHOTO CREDIT: Mr. Gerhardt Kramer, F.A.I.A., Kramer and Harms, Architec	ts
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	ning Office, Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Mo.	ومرو6
4.	DENTIFICATION	
	DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	
	Measured drawing, south elevation, Warren County Courthouse, sou facing north.	ıth

<sup>1</sup>Form 10-301 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE Missouri COUNTY

		warren		
	PROPERTY MAP FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY		
	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
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3. MAP 1	REFERENCE			
SOURCE: An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Warren County, Missouri.				
<u> </u>	Philadelphia: Edwards Brothers, 1877.			
SCAL	1 111 = 700 1660			
DATE	1077			
	IREMENTS			
	E INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
	Property broundaries where required.			
1	2. North arrow.			
3	Latitude and longitude reference.			

# WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND CIRCUIT COURT BUILDING

COUNTY: Warren

Main St., Warrenton, Mo. 63383 LOCATION:

OWNER:
ADDRESS:
ADDRESS:
Arrenton, Mo. 63383

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

11-12-71

באור עין הטערט טו איניי

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY: 12-21-71

DATE SENT TO D.C.: 12-21-71

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: 03-17-72

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE 12-17-75 (AND PRESENTOR): Jeraid S. Stepenoff

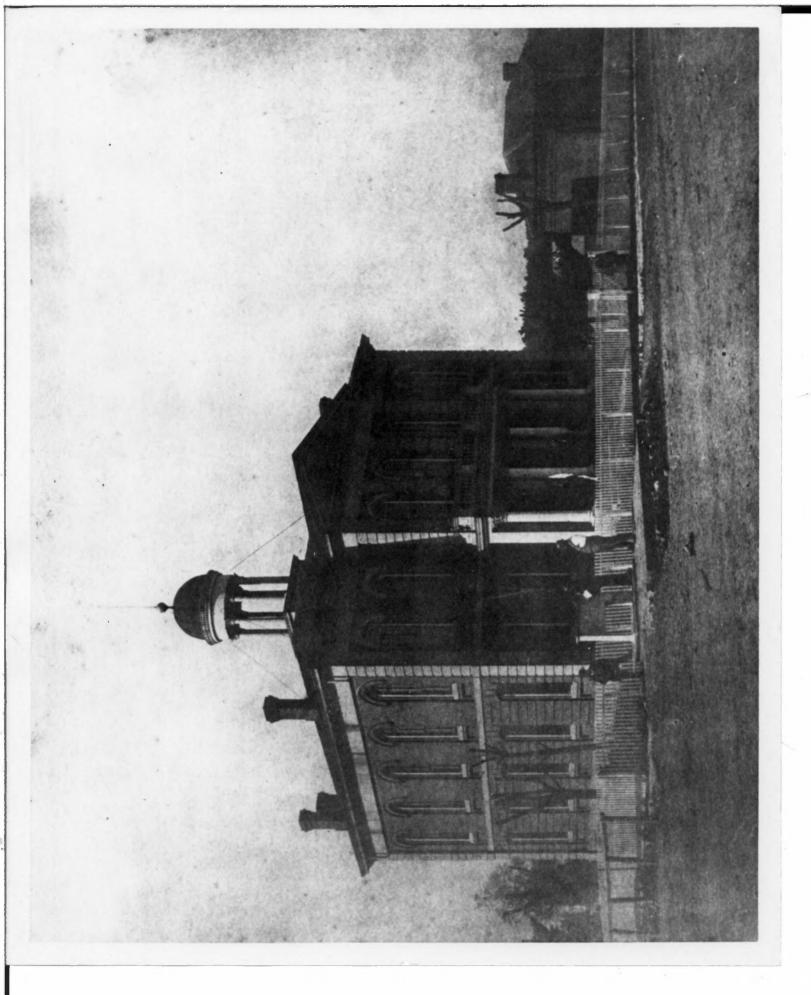
DATE FIEE REVIEWED:

Warren County Courthouse is historically significant since the location of the courthouse at Warrenton was catalytic to the town's development. Warrenton was platted specifically to attract the seat of justice, and town lots were not sold until construction of the courthouse began.

Werren County Countriouse

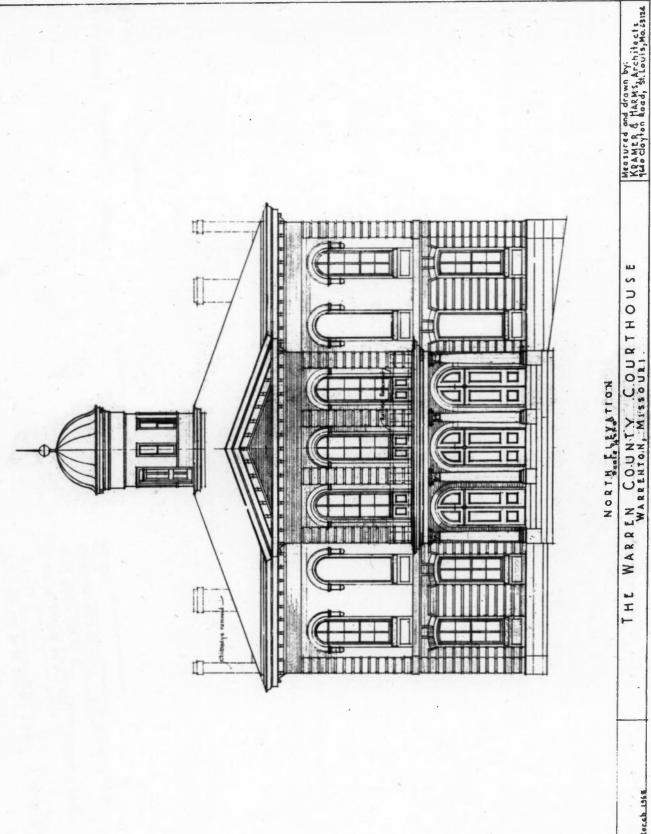
Showing courtnoise and companies chewit Court buildy, North East Fachy South west. Mr. M.M. Schowagerdt, warreste, Mo. Origin. Chirtysuph 1- possession of

0.4: 1881



Measured downing, North (math) elevithing

COURT Humber
Photographer: CERNAROT KRAMER FAIR
The of Photographer: CERNAROT KRAMER FAIR
The of Photographer: NORTH ELEVATION

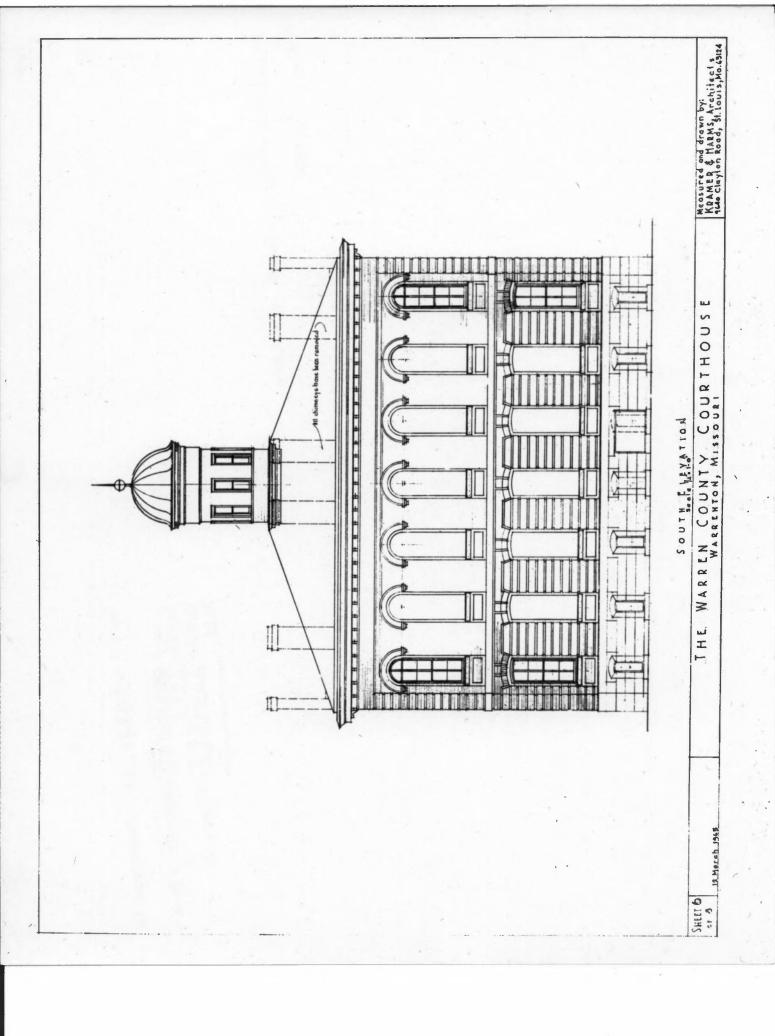


SHEE! 4

WARREN CO. COURTHOUSE Date of Photo: 1965 SANA OL KRAMER FAIA View of Photo: SOUTH ELEVATION

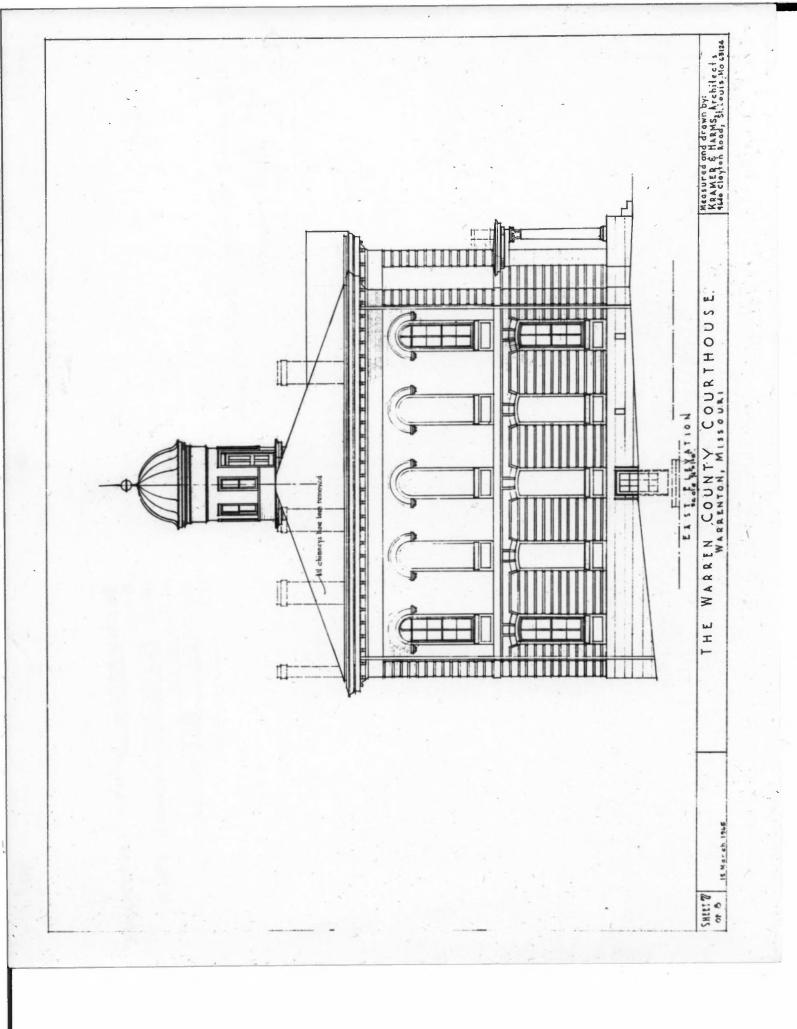
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Encly north



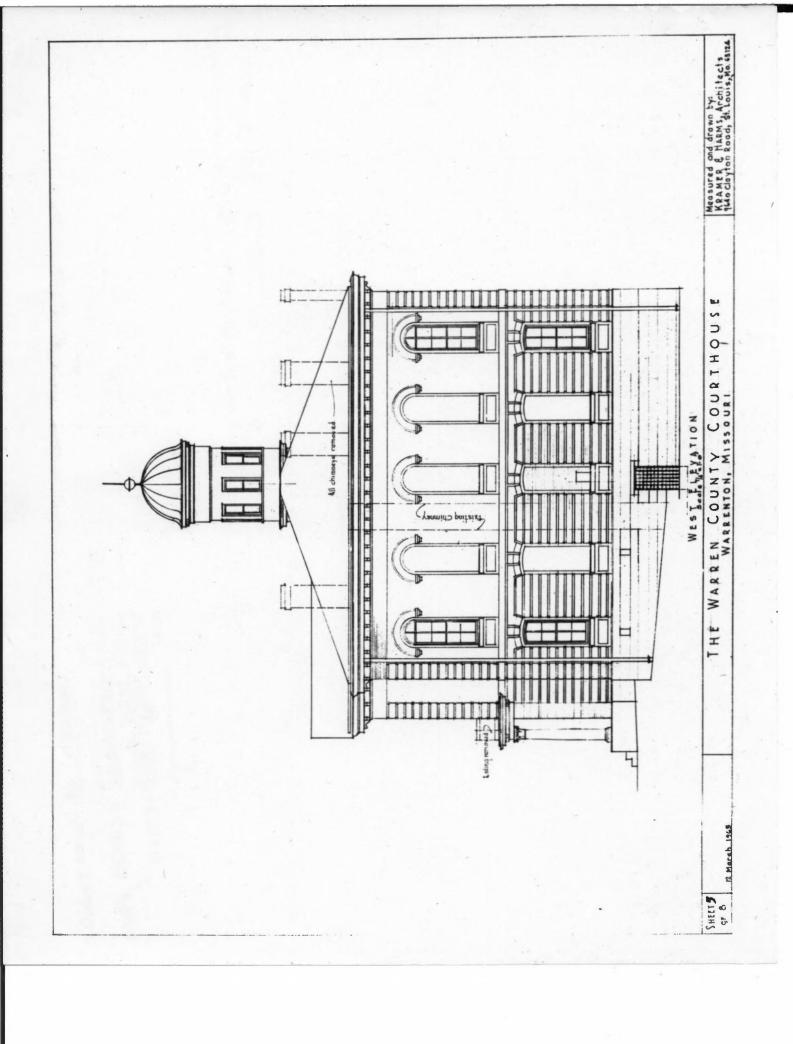
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Mare of She: WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
She of Photo: LEST ELEURTION
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Usto of Photo. WEST ELEVATION

messured drawy, west elevature,



Warren County Courthouse
Warrenton, Mo.

M.P. Holmes
Jan. 6, 1971
view fr. NE

Warren County Courthouse
Warrenton, Mo.
M.P. Holmes
Jan. 6, 1971
view fr. NE

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Name of Site: Warren Co. Courtinuse

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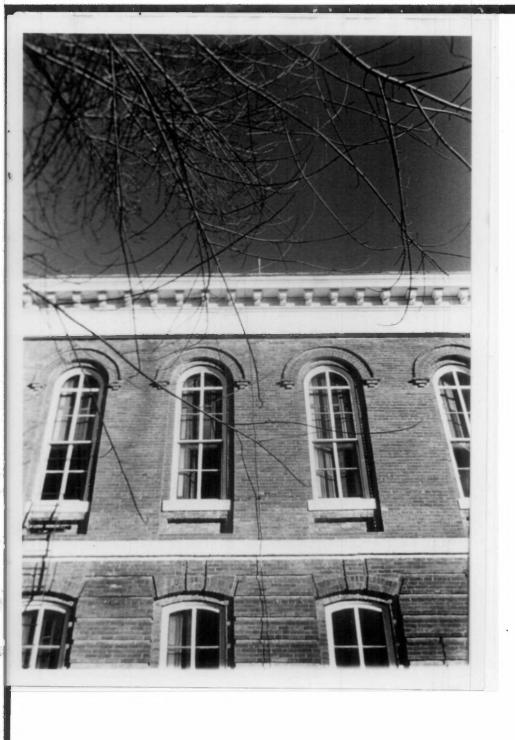
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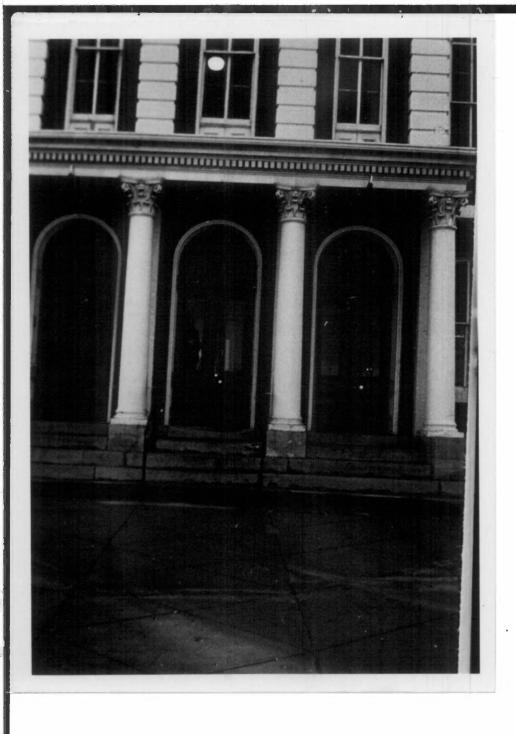
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The Region 711. P. Johnes

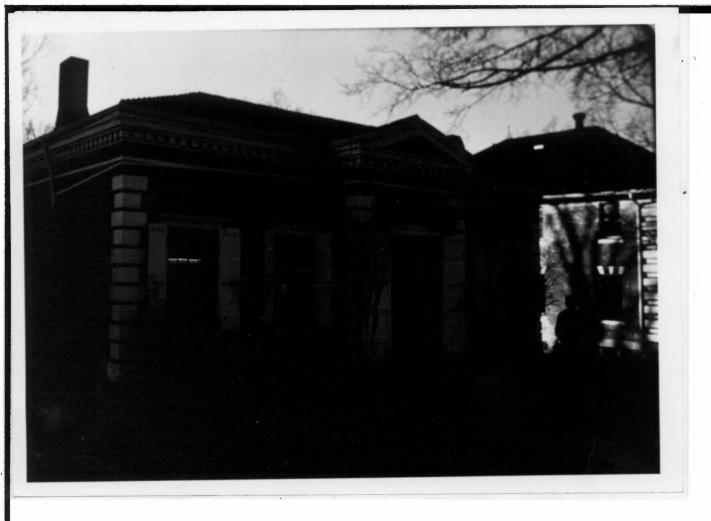
Jan 6, 1971

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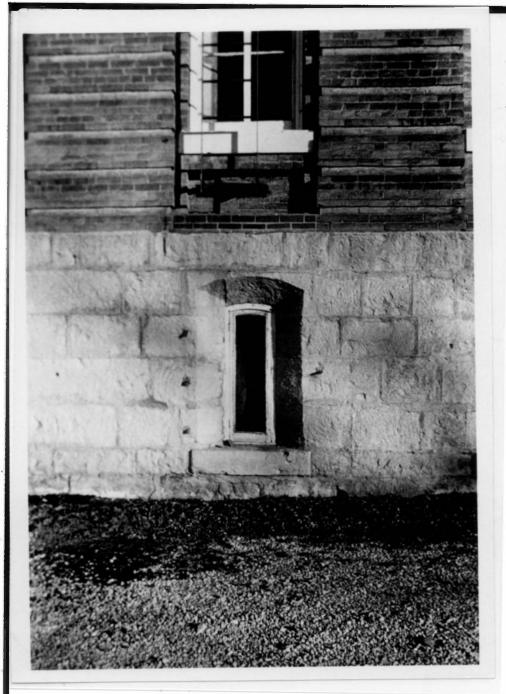
Neg. Size



Name of Sile: Warren County Courthouse
Site Number Warrenton, Mo.
Photographer: M.P. Holmes
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1971
View of Photo: Recorders Office, companion bldg.
Neg. Size to courthouse



Name of Site: Warren Co. Couchner. No. Site Number
Photographer: M. P. Hornes
Bate of Photo: Jan. 6, 1977
View of Photo: Journ datin attail - south
Neg. Size

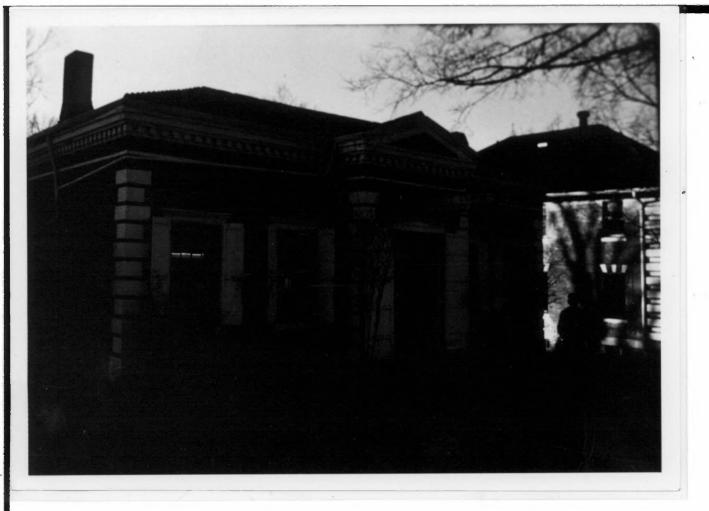


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Marren County Courthouse
Warrenton, Mo.

Photographer: M.P. Holmes
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1971
View of Photo: Recorders Office, companion bldg.
to courthouse



Name of Site: Warren Co. Courthnive
Site Number

Photographer: M. P. Holmes
Date of Photo: Jan 6, 1921
View of Photo: Courtroom
Neg. Size



Name of Site: Warren Co. Courthnise

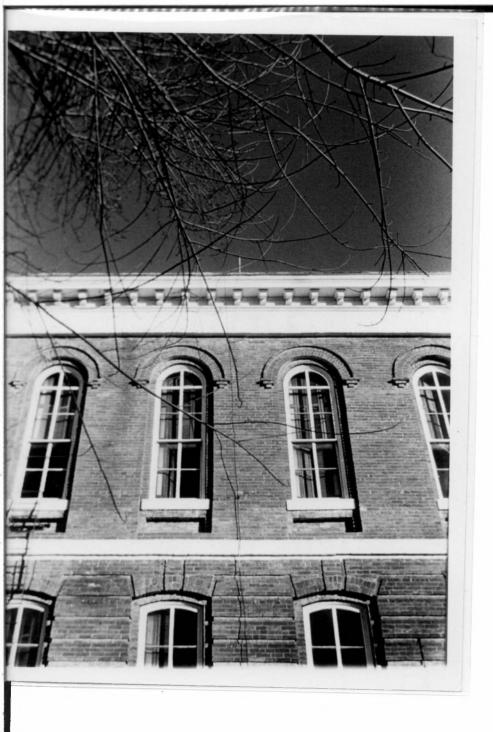
Site Number

Photographer: M. P. IJohnis

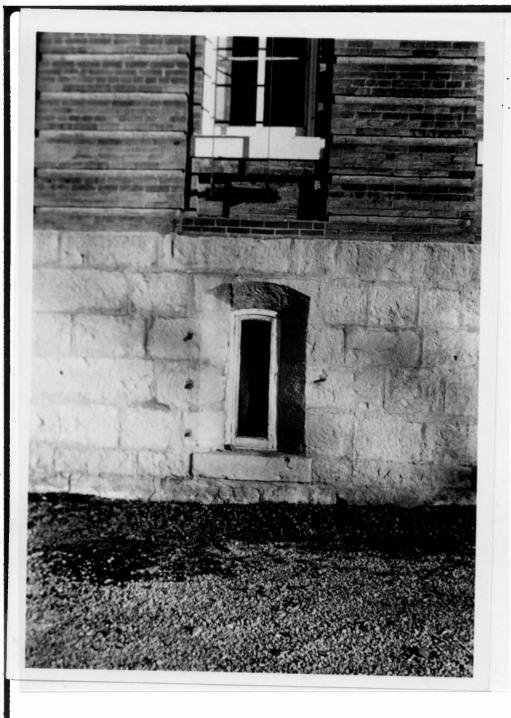
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1921

View of Photo: Rear defail

Neg. Size



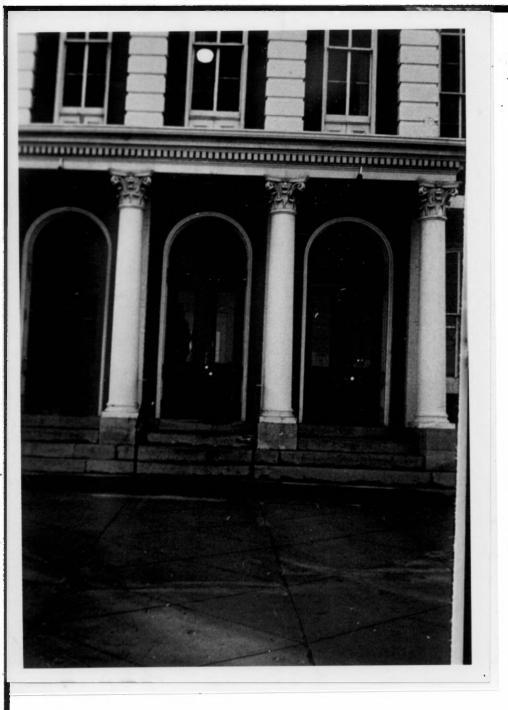
Name of Site: Warren Co. Courthnese
Site Number Warrenton, Mo.
Photographer: M. P. Holmes
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1921
View of Photo: Joundation delail-south
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Name of Site: Warren Co Courthnese
Site Number Warrentn, mo.

Photographer: m. P. Idolines
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1971
View of Photo: Let. n facade from N

Neg. Size



Name of Site: Warren Cr. Courthnise

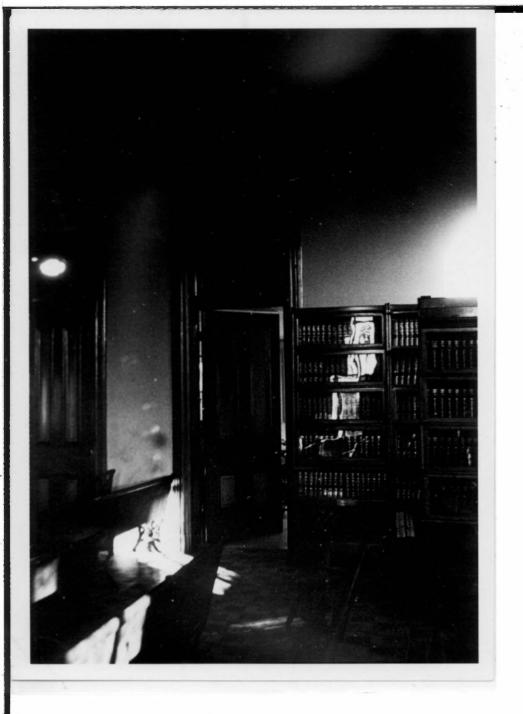
Site Number Warrenton, Mo.

Photographer: 7n P. Holmes

Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1971

View of Photo: Jinterior

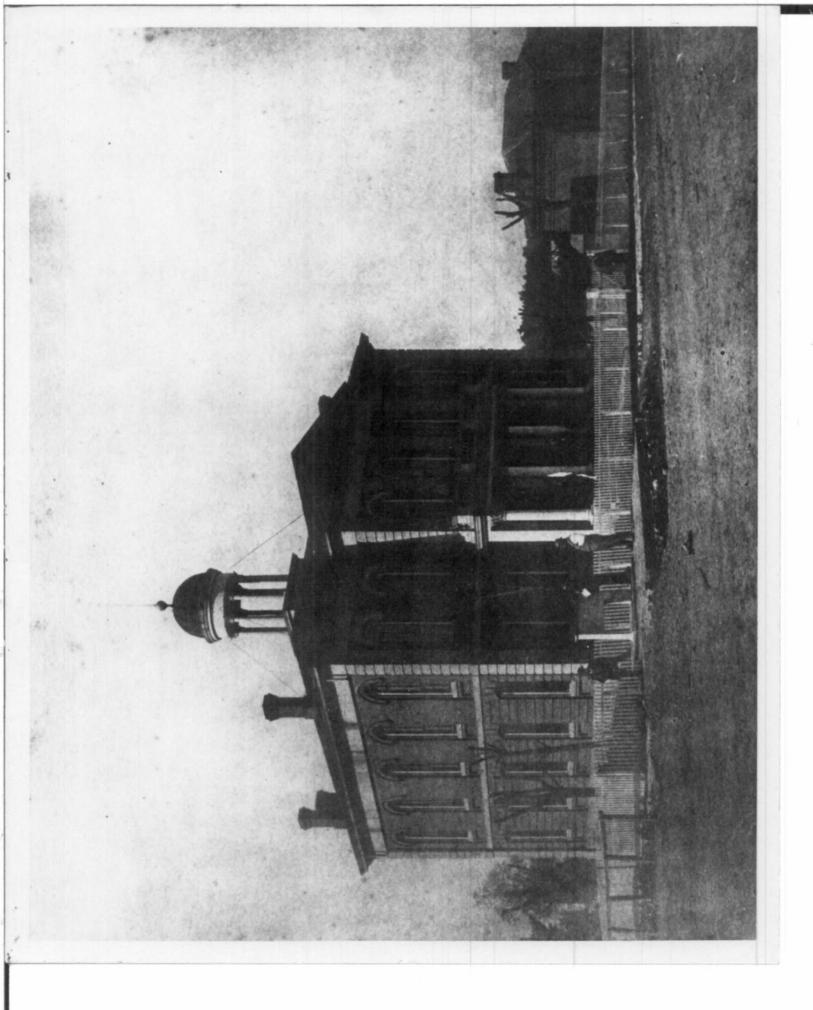
Neg. Size



Name of Site: Warren Co. Courthouse
Site Number Warrent, Mo.
Photographer: M. P. Holmes
Date of Photo: Jan. 6, 1971
View of Photo: Jinteria
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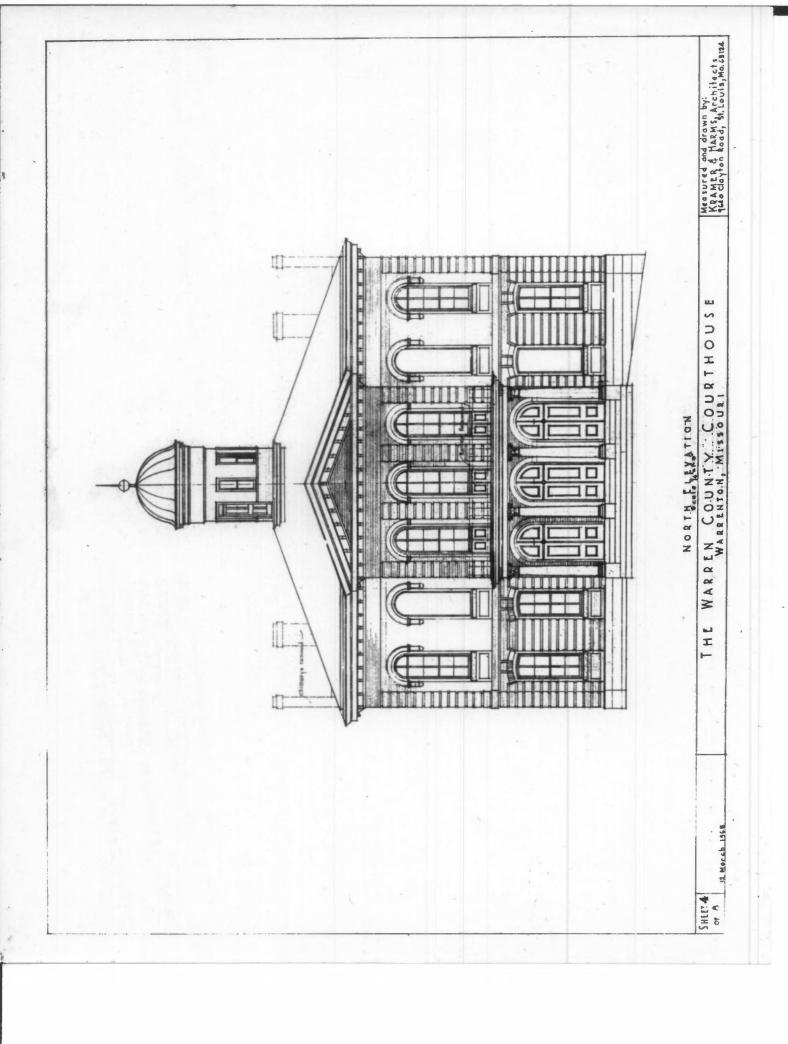
Showing courtnerse and comparish circust Court building, North East Fachy South wast. Mr. M.M. Schowagerdt, warrette , Mo. Origine photograph In possession of General view of courthouse Square Werren County Countrouse D.4: 1867



Stite Number
Photographer: LERNAROT KRAMER FAIA

The st Plate: 1965
The st Plate: NORTH ELENATION

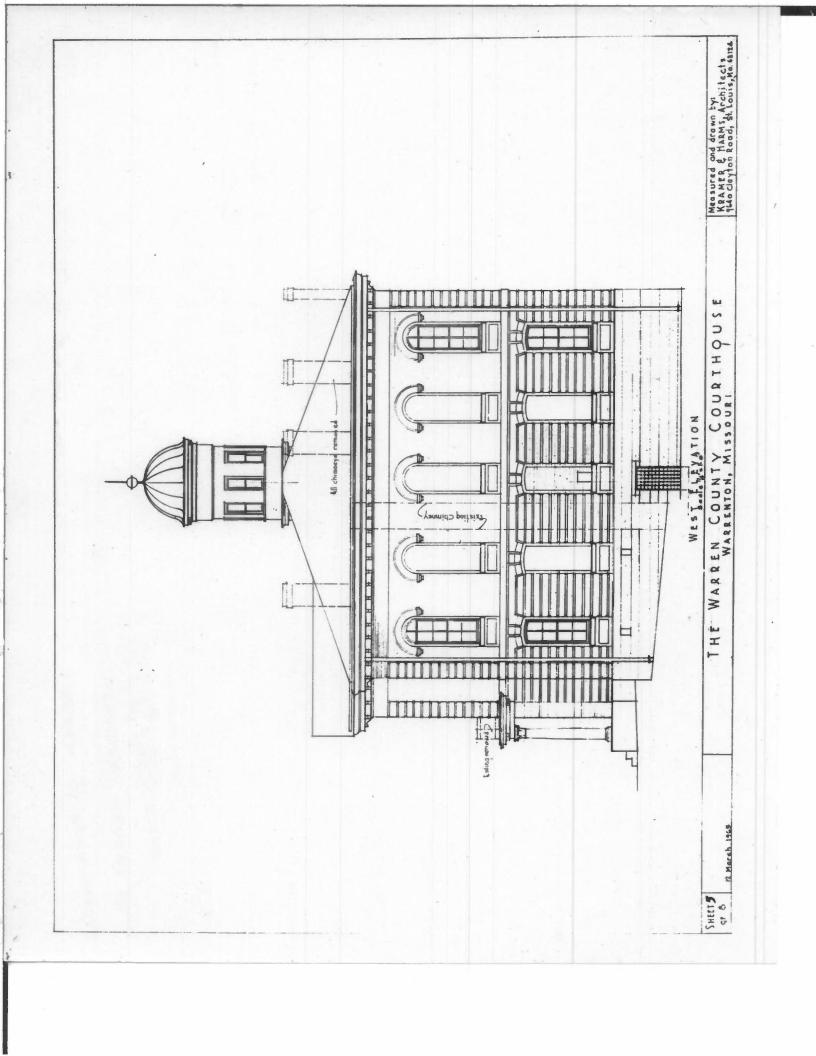
Measured drawing, North (math) elev. Hu



WARREN CO. COURTNOWS.

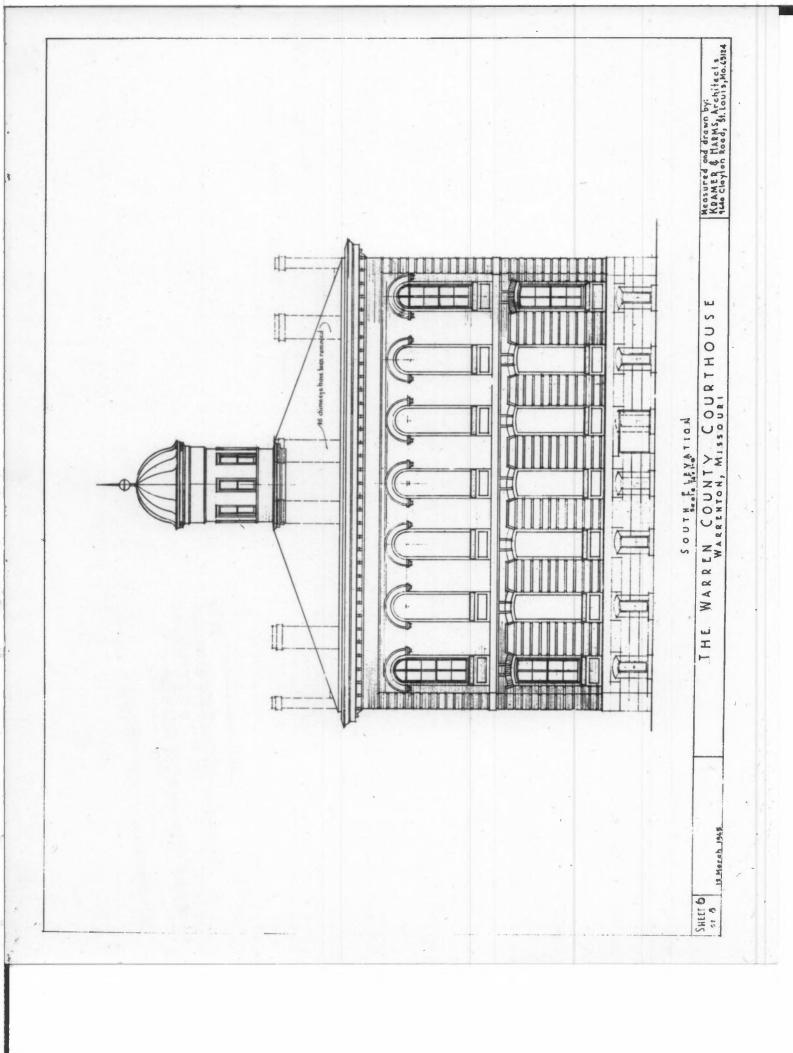
Uste of Photo: WEST ELEVATION

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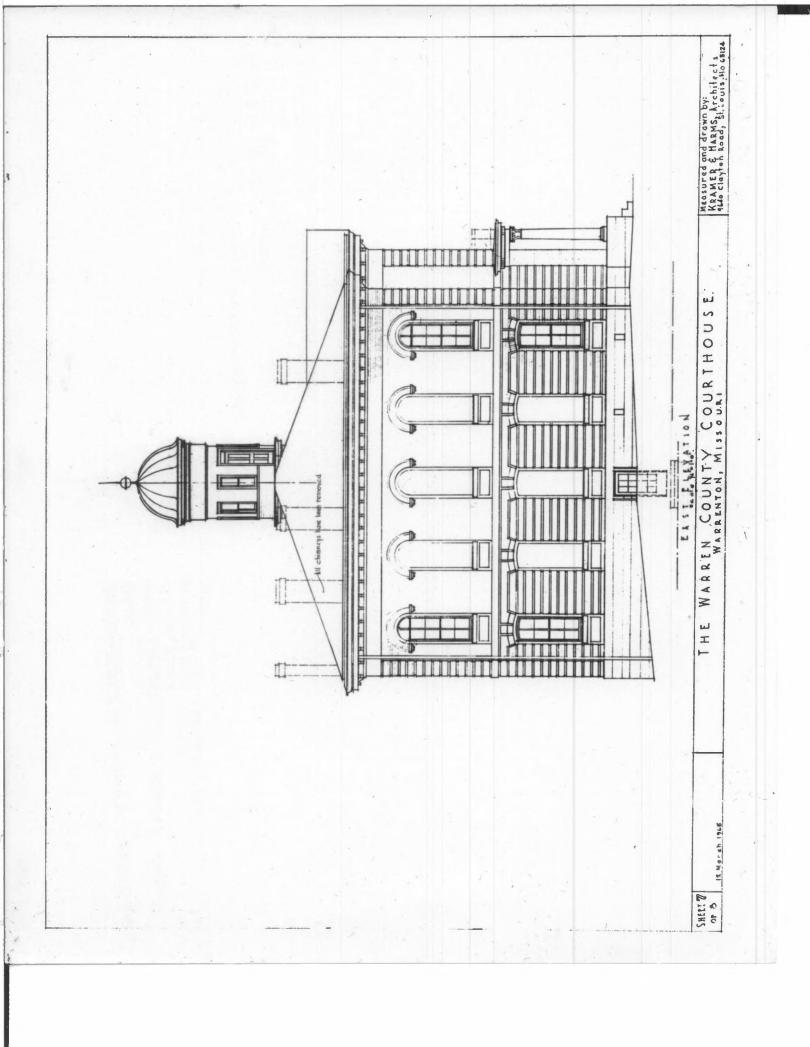
Date of Photo: CERNARDI KARMER FAIA
VIEW OF Photo: SOUTH ELEVATION

measured drawing, south elevithing South



Measured drawing, east elevation, east fachy west,

Note of Photo: EAST ELEVATION
Neg. Size



## EXTRA PHOTOS



